

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2009

Members: Kathy Stevens, Victor Weissberg, Lucinda Lessley, Phil Olivetti, Mark Woodard, Marilyn Seitz, Megan Moriarty, Casey Anderson and Constance Wynn Evan Glass, Jessica Fussillo

Members Absent: Darian Unger, Mark Woodard, Alan Bowser, Deborah Linn, Mitch Warren, Tiffany Graham-Golden

Call to Order and Introduction: Kathy Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: (Seitz, Anderson), The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously approved the June 2009 minutes.

Community Comments:

Bob Colvin commented that the Day Care Center at Georgia and Sligo filed Chapter 11. Next to the Day Care Center is a vacant building and a *Pizzeria* is going to open there. Doctor Glee, owner of the brick building on Fenton Street north of the 7-Eleven is going to have 4,000 square feet of retail space available. The Tow Lot next to the 7-Eleven is gone.

A member of the community announced that there is going to be a boundary review process for all elementary schools and wanted to encourage the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and community to get involved in the process.

Chairs Report

Kathy Stevens reported that:

- The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and Committees will meet in July and in August we recess and will resume meeting in September.
- Welcome to our newest member Jessica Fusillo.

Director Report

Roylene Roberts reported that:

- The new Director, Reemberto Rodriguez will report on July 20.
- The Civic Building is under construction. The Regional Center submitted their FFI for FY11 and it includes a request for funding for the following positions:
Silver Spring Manager*
Marketing and Public Relations Specialist*
Facilities Manager
Public Service Craft Worker

In addition funding is requested for supplies, materials, communications, landscaping and maintenance items.

The two positions with asterisks are the positions where final decisions have not been made. Silver Spring Town Center Inc. (SSTC) has been proposed as the entity to program and market the building as an alternative to county staff performing this function.

Designation as SSTC, Inc. would not eliminate the necessity for county staff oversight to include coordination with Community Use of Public Facilities, Security and Facilities Maintenance. In addition, The County should provide oversight concerning program content/appropriateness and to assure that all community groups have an equal opportunity to utilize the facility.

- Roylene Roberts commented that at the most recent briefing on the Civic Building it will be ready for occupancy July 2010. The contract states they are to finish it but does not tell the contractor what order to do it in. Roylene Roberts suggested that perhaps the Board would like to invite Don Scheuerman for further questions and updates on the project.
- The Urban District Advisory Committee held election and the new officers are Carmen Camacho, Chair and Jennifer Nettles, Vice Chair.
- There seems to be an increase in graffiti in Long Branch and Woodmoor areas. The issue has been reported to Montgomery County Police over the non-emergency number several times beginning in 2009. The Sector commander indicated that the centralized Gang unit was notified and the graffiti is not linked to a gang but rather a graffiti artist.
- The County Executive invites nomination for the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Awards. This award recognized and honors older County Residents for achievements among five categories which are: Advocacy, Arts & Humanities, Community Service, Sports and Fitness and Workplace Contributions. Nomination will be accepted through September 18. For more information contact Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer.

Neighborhoods Committee

Megan Moriarty reported that:

- Rukiyat Gilbert, Southern Management gave an update on the completed and planned renovations to the Silver Spring Towers Apartment Building and their other buildings in the area
- Tony Hauser attend the meeting we had a discussion on the Safe Silver Spring Summit and the next steps.
- Dwayne Jenkins gave an update on the Positive Youth Development Program and he is working on forming a Youth Council that will work with and advise the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board.
- Saint Camilus Catholic Church off New Hampshire Avenue in the Weed and Seed area have decided donate a portion of their land and build affordable housing for seniors and will be built by Victory Housing who has done numerous senior developments in the County. The Neighborhood Committee decided to draft this letter of support based on input from the Weed and Seed members in the Committee.

Motion: (Moriarity, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to send the letter of support as amended addressing it to the County Executive and cc: James Brown, President Victory Housing Inc.

CED Committee

Phil Olivetti reported that:

The notes are on page 16 and self explanatory. The Committee had two action items. The first was to support Heritage Day which occurred on June 27 and 28. The next was CED Committee had a discussion about co-sponsoring the Silver Spring Human Rights Festival and unfortunately the action itself is in the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Report on page 17. We want to know if anyone on the Board has a problem with co-sponsoring this event on April 23-25, 2010.

The Board agreed to table the Silver Spring Human Rights Festival discussion until their September meeting.

Marilyn Seitz reported that the Fenton Village tour was interesting and Mark Bombaugh Architect and Urban Designer attended the meeting and gave his vision of what Fenton Village would look like. He did a fantastic job showing us better uses of old buildings and parks. We need more of these tours to see what the problems are in other neighborhoods.

Transportation and Safety Committee

Kathy Stevens reported that:

There were two action items located on page 19 of the packet.

- The major Capital Improvement Projects, (CIP) items that the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee would like the county to include and recommended that the SSCAB support CIP Funding for:
 - Metropolitan Branch Trail
 - Transportation Center (if needed by the time the next CIP budget is produced)
 - A comprehensive program of Dale Drive Improvements
 - Street/traffic/pedestrian signal software improvements

Motion: (Stevens, Olivetti) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously approved support of CIP funding for the items indicated above.

The other item marked action regarding CAB co-sponsor to the Silver Spring Human Rights Art Festival as discussed in the CED Committee report has been tabled until we have more information.

Discussion of efforts to merge several efforts of the Department of Parks and the Department of Recreation:

Mary Bradford, Director, Parks, M-NCCPC, which is a State Chartered independent agency that provides all County Park Services and manages approximately 10% of the land in Montgomery County. We have a little over 400 parks, with around 300 playgrounds and about 2/3 of it is natural area, most of the streams valleys in the park system we have the Park Police force that does patrol and staff that cuts down trees, run nature centers and control the parks etc. As a result

of having so much land and park land we have over time developed a number of recreation programs.

The purpose of the study is County Council is trying to find a way to save money in these tight budget times by reviewing and seeing if there is overlap between Department of Parks and Department of Recreation and find way that perhaps we could do things differently to try an get some **centrifuge** going and save money. Currently a number of recreation facility such as pools are in parks and we have various management arrangement sort of one by one when a Recreation facility is in a Park we developed overtime certain protocols.

Gabriel Albornoz, Director, Department of Recreation commented that the Department is responsible for overseeing 33 recreation related facilities across the County that include Community Recreation Center, Neighborhood Recreation Center, Senior Centers, Aquatic facilities indoors and outdoor. We have approximately 3,000 employees and 6,000 programs that we offer on an annual basis. These programs serve close to one-half million people in the County year around. There was a strong interest by the County to manage some of the after school programs and they took over those recreational components and over time the Department has grown into what it is today in addition we manage special events across the County. Mary Bradford and I have been meeting over the last six months on this process and have had the opportunity to evaluate the programming components of both agencies. The Office of Legislative Oversight was asked by Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee to conduct a study and evaluation of programming efforts to determine if there was an opportunity to improve efficiencies and see if there is duplication of services. They produced a report and presented it to the PHED Committee last year. After a series of work session the PHED Committee decided they did not have sufficient information to make a full recommendation to Council. They ultimately recommended that the leadership of both agencies go back, build on the report. For the last five months both agencies have made this the highest priority and meet on a bi-weekly basis to conduct an analysis which has been split into four sub-groups to discuss ideas for doing things more efficiently.

The four subgroups are:

1. Technology and registration
2. Marketing and Public Relations
3. Programming and Pricing
4. Facilities

Both of us are committed to make sure we do the most cost effective things and try an avoid territoriality. The more we can figure out what to save the better both agencies will be. Mary and I are slated to review and provide internal recommendation by the end of July. It will be forwarded to Park and Planning Commission and the Executive Branch and once both of those entities have reviewed and fine tuned things although it will not be in final form will have community meetings to get reactions to the kinds of recommendations we will make and we are targeting the month of September to conduct those. The final report is due to County Council in October.

In September we are coming back out with a product and the meeting will more than likely be held at the Gwendolyn Coffield Center with advance notice of date and time. This will be the opportunity for those interested to influence the process before it becomes the final draft. Mary Bradford commented that she reports to the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission and the Planning Board also sits as a Park Commission and they will have to consider this in public and open session before it goes to County Council so this is another opportunity for people to speak on the matter.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

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